

FACILITATOR / TEACHER GUIDE

SESSION 6 – I AM THE RESURRECTION AND THE LIFE

John 11:1–44

PURPOSE OF THIS SESSION

This session explores Jesus' declaration, "**I am the resurrection and the life,**" spoken in the midst of grief, loss, and apparent failure. Rather than offering abstract theology, Jesus reveals Himself as **the source of life that overcomes death**, both now and eternally.

The goal of this session is to help participants wrestle honestly with **loss, disappointment, and unanswered questions**, and to discover how Jesus meets us not only with future hope, but with **present life and resurrection power** in the middle of suffering.

INTENDED USE

This lesson is designed for **personal preparation and group discussion**. Participants should complete the Student Guide prior to the session.

The facilitator's role is to **create a safe, thoughtful space for reflection**, guide discussion, and help participants engage both **emotionally and spiritually**, rather than deliver a lecture.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

By the end of this session, participants should be able to:

- **Understand the context of Jesus' statement in John 11**
 - **Recognize Jesus as the source of both present life and future resurrection**
 - **Reflect on how faith interacts with grief, doubt, and disappointment**
 - **Consider what it means to trust Jesus when outcomes are uncertain**
 - **Identify areas where God may be inviting deeper trust and hope**
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FACILITATOR PREPARATION

Before leading the session:

- **Read John 11:1–44 slowly and prayerfully**
- **Reflect on the emotions present in the story—grief, anger, hope, trust**



- **Consider your own experiences of loss or waiting on God**
 - **Prepare to hold space for vulnerability and silence**
 - **Be mindful that grief is personal and may be tender for participants**
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SESSION FLOW (75–90 MINUTES)

1. WELCOME AND OPENING PRAYER (5 MINUTES)

Welcome participants and remind them that this session continues the series on Jesus' **"I AM" statements**, focusing today on one spoken **in the face of death itself**.

Open with prayer, asking God to:

- Meet us in places of grief and confusion
- Reveal Jesus as present and compassionate
- Awaken hope that goes beyond circumstances

Suggested prayer focus:

- Trust in uncertainty
 - Hope in the midst of loss
 - Openness to God's work
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2. ORIENTING THE GROUP: THE STORY OF JOHN 11 (5–10 MINUTES)

Briefly summarize the situation:

- Lazarus, whom Jesus loves, becomes ill
- Jesus delays coming
- Lazarus dies
- Martha and Mary grieve deeply

Key teaching point:

Jesus enters the story **after loss has already occurred**, not before.

Emphasize that this passage holds both **deep sorrow and profound hope**.

3. DISCUSSION: WAITING, DELAY, AND DISAPPOINTMENT (10 MINUTES)



Invite the group to reflect on Jesus' delay.

Discussion prompts:

- Why do you think Jesus waited instead of coming immediately?
- How might Martha and Mary have interpreted Jesus' absence?
- What emotions surface when God does not act as quickly as we hope?

Facilitator note:

Avoid trying to "solve" the tension. Let participants sit with it.

4. DISCUSSION: MARTHA'S FAITH AND QUESTIONS (10 MINUTES)

Focus on Jesus' interaction with Martha.

Key idea:

Faith and disappointment can exist at the same time.

Discussion prompts:

- What does Martha believe about Jesus?
- Where do you hear both trust and pain in her words?
- How does Jesus respond to her honesty?

Encourage participants to see Martha's words as **faith seeking understanding**, not failure.

5. DISCUSSION: "I AM THE RESURRECTION AND THE LIFE" (10–15 MINUTES)

Read John 11:25–26 aloud slowly.

Key idea:

Jesus does not merely offer resurrection—**He is resurrection and life.**

Discussion prompts:

- What is the difference between believing in an event and trusting a person?
- How does Jesus redefine resurrection in this statement?
- What does this mean for life now, not just life after death?

Facilitator insight:

Resurrection is not only about the future—it is about **God's life breaking into the present.**



6. DISCUSSION: JESUS AND GRIEF (10 MINUTES)

Turn attention to Jesus weeping.

Key teaching point:

Jesus is not distant from human pain—He enters it fully.

Discussion prompts:

- Why do you think Jesus wept, even knowing what He would do?
- What does this reveal about God's heart toward suffering?
- How does this challenge ideas that faith eliminates grief?

Allow time for quiet reflection. This moment may be emotional for some.

7. DISCUSSION: ROLLING AWAY THE STONE (10 MINUTES)

Focus on the moment before Lazarus is raised.

Key idea:

Resurrection often requires participation and trust.

Discussion prompts:

- What resistance or fear do you hear in the crowd's response?
 - What "stones" might prevent us from expecting new life?
 - Where might God be asking for obedience before we see the outcome?
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8. PERSONAL REFLECTION AND APPLICATION (10 MINUTES)

Invite participants into personal reflection or optional sharing.

Reflection questions:

- Where do you feel stuck between loss and hope?
- What would it look like to trust Jesus as life in your present situation?
- Is there an area where God may be calling you out of the tomb?

Encourage participants to name **one small step of trust or obedience** for the coming week.

9. GROUP PRAYER AND CLOSING (5–10 MINUTES)

Close with prayer, thanking Jesus for being **present in grief and powerful over death**.



Optional prayer focus:

- Hope in places of loss
- Courage to trust beyond understanding
- Gratitude for new life in Christ

Invite participants to leave in silence or reflection if appropriate.

KEY TAKEAWAY FOR FACILITATORS

This session invites participants to encounter Jesus **not as a distant answer to death, but as present life in the midst of it**. Some may be carrying fresh grief or long-standing disappointment. The goal is not to rush resolution, but to **create space for honest faith**, trusting that resurrection begins wherever Jesus is welcomed.

